

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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BROWN BILLS ON HEALTH CARE, GENESIS CONVENTION CENTER PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS – Several bills co-sponsored by State Rep. Charlie Brown (D-Gary), dealing with everything from the licensing of dentists to salaries at the Genesis Convention Center, passed out of the House today.

Senate Bill 66 would prohibit the Office of Medicaid Policy from encouraging or requiring individuals to seek medical attention at hospitals other than facilities located in the city where the patient lives. The office would also be required to reimburse the hospitals where treatment is received, provided that certain conditions are met.

"It becomes a burden to patients when they are told they must go to a certain hospital in order for the care they receive to be covered by Medicaid," said Brown. "Medicaid is meant to assist needy Hoosiers in receiving medical care and should not complicate individuals' lives by encouraging or insisting that they drive all over town to receive medical care. The bill passed today will prevent that from happening."

The bill passed on a 91-0 vote. Because no amendments to the legislation were adopted in the House, it will now be considered by the Governor.

Senate Bill 197 will change the length of time a dentist must have practiced out of state in order to apply for a license by reciprocity in Indiana. The duration of time will be reduced to two of the past three years.

The House approved of Senate Bill 197 by a vote of 95 - 0. It will next go before the governor for final action.

Senate Bill 224 will establish the Statewide Independent Living Council, which will assist the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services in providing independent living services and promoting the development of a statewide network of independent living centers.

The bill also addresses some ethical issues by preventing a member of this council from having ownership interest in a hospice or home health agency.

"As a significant portion of Indiana's population ages, we need to start seriously addressing the issues of home health care and independent living," said Brown. "Establishing this council is a step in the right direction."

This bill passed the House by a vote of 89 - 0 and now goes to the Senate for concurrence on changes made in the House.

Senate Bill 602 will allow for a member of the Genesis Convention Center board of managers to receive a per diem if the member holds no other lucrative or appointed positions. Currently, managers are not allowed to receive a salary.

Located in downtown Gary, the Genesis Convention Center is a concert venue, the home court of the Gary Steelheads of the Continental Basketball Association and has been the venue for the Miss USA Pageant.

Senate Bill 603 adds kidney disease to the Chronic Disease Registry and the Chronic Disease Management Program.

The Chronic Disease Registry, which is run by the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning, was implemented in order to conduct surveys and studies of certain chronic diseases around the state, make recommendations on prevention of these diseases to the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning and to inform the public about programs

designed for chronic disease management.

The Chronic Disease Management Program was originally created for people who suffer from asthma, diabetes, congestive heart failure and hypertension and for those at risk for these diseases. It is a program coordinated by health care professionals that compiles information regarding these chronic diseases and shares this information on a statewide network.

Information about this program is available at www.indianacdmprogram.com.

"Kidney disease is a chronic ailment that affects many Hoosiers," said Brown. "It is important that we collect data on this disease, not only so we can help those afflicted cope but so we can also prevent it in others."

Senate Bill 603 passed the House by a vote of 92 - 0 and now goes to the governor for final approval.